

HONORABLE JAKOB ALTMAIER (M. P.)

Member of German Parliament Visits U. S. A.

First German of Jewish faith since Rathenau plays great historical role in Western Germany — a German Social Democrat, he represents the "loyal opposition."

Clipping sheet prepared for his friends in the U. S. A. on conclusion of Mr. Altmaier's visit to the U. S.



President Dwight D. Eisenhower receives (left to right) Deputy Jakob Altmaier and German Ambassador Heinz L. Krekeler at White House.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1954

AS WE SEE IT—

The Emerging Germany

A REUNITED Germany seems more and more essential to the permanent peace of Europe. But it was not so long ago that the West had as much reason to fear German reunification as the Communists. There was no clear evidence of what kind of reunited Germany it would be.

The last year brought impressive evidence that Germany is on its way toward becoming a reliable part of the Western European civilization from which it sprang. There has been interesting minor evidence in recent days, in a movie theater in Heidelberg, at a luncheon in Chicago.

The East German rebellion showed plainly that the Russians have failed to win Germans. The West German election last September gave Konrad Adenauer such an overwhelming victory that it seems evident that the future Germany is going his way. And Adenauer's way is that of the West.

In Heidelberg last week a bitterly honest documentary film about the Hitlerian brutalities was finally shown.

The German audience watched it in remarkable silence and left quietly. There were neither cheers nor jeers. This, we venture to believe, was the reaction of people somberly aware of their mistakes.

This week Chicago had a distinguished visitor in Jakob Altmaier, member of the West German parliament. He was entertained at a luncheon by Heinrich Knappstein, German consul general.

Herr Altmaier happens to be an outspoken Social Democrat and as such a leader of the opposition to the Adenauer government which Herr Knappstein represents. But the mutual respect was obvious.

Herr Altmaier also happens to be a Jew who lost 39 relatives to Nazi brutality. He returned from exile to be elected and re-elected to parliament. The luncheon included some distinguished Jewish citizens. These included a rabbi who said grace.

As a long reflection of Bonn, the German consulate was practicing, and the German visitor reciprocating, in a dawning German political and religious democracy.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Friday, January 8, 1954

The President's Appointment List

By the United Press

8:30 a. m.—National Security Council.
11:30 a. m.—Foreign Operations Director Harold E. Stassen and C. Tyler Wood, United States Economic Coordinator in Korea.
11:45 a. m.—Dr. Heinz L. Krekeler, Ambassador from West Germany, and Jakob Altmaier, first Jewish member of the German Bundestag since Hitler.
12 noon.—Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks.



Senator Hubert Humphrey was host at a tea given in Deputy Altmaier's honor in the Senate. (Left to Right) Senator Alexander Wiley, Deputy Altmaier, Senator Humphrey.

VISITOR INTERVIEWED

German Officials Held 'Pro-Semitic'

BY FRANK L. HAYES

West Germany today is free from "official anti-Semitism," said Jakob Altmaier, a Jew and former refugee from the Nazis, now a Social Democratic deputy in Parliament.

Altmaier told newspapermen at the German consulate:

"Officials from the chancel-
lor down are pro-Semitic. Not
the slightest anti-Jewish utter-
ance is heard in Parliament.

take and fault of the German
people is that they allowed the
gangsters to become powerful
enough to take over the coun-
try," said Altmaier.

* * *

HE ADDED that in his opin-
ion the United States can
strengthen the German belief in
justice and decency.

"There exist in the popula-
tion some incurable Nazis, to
be sure. For 12 years under
Hitler, Germans had been
taught that every Jew is a
criminal.

"I think the mass of people
has been cured. I can speak for
the soundness of the 30 per
cent making up my own party.
Chancellor Adenauer, who is not
of our party, is no less sound."

He said that could be done
if the United States released
the German property confis-
cated during the war.

"While I am here I shall sound
out members of Congress on
that subject," said Altmaier.

BECAUSE Germans in gen-
eral were shocked, said Alt-
maier, when they learned how 6
million Jews had perished in
concentration camps, all parties
supported an agreement to pay
\$750 million over a period of 12
years for rehabilitation of Jew-
ish refugees in Israel.

"The great misfortune, mis-

Chicago American
*** Mon., Jan. 4, 1954—3

Stevenson Greets Altmaier

Adlai E. Stevenson, 1952
Democratic candidate for presi-
dent, suggested some New Year's
resolutions today for his party.

His message was recorded to
be sent to party organizations
throughout the country.

While at the recording studios
Stevenson had a brief talk with
Jakob Altmaier, 64, noted Social-
ist member of the German Bun-
destag, or lower house. Alt-
maier is the first German high
official of the Jewish religion
since 1933.

The meeting was held at the
studios because of full sched-
ules of the two men. Altmaier
was to leave for Washington
this afternoon. He will sail from
New York for home on Jan. 23.

JEWISH BUNDESTAG MEMBER VISITS HERE



THE FIRST high German official of Jewish faith to visit Chicago in 25 years was Jakob Altmaier, a Social Democratic member of the West German Bundestag (parliament), who attended several functions here, last week, including a cocktail reception at the home of Brig. Gen. Julius Klein. Altmaier was one of the sponsors of the Israeli-German reparations agreement. Shown here with Altmaier (center) is Gen. Klein and Rabbi Louis Binstock of Temple Sholom, at the General's residence.

THE NATIONAL JEWISH POST Friday, January 15, 1954

Forward ART SECTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1954

LEHMAN VISITORS. — Sen-
ator Herbert H. Lehman, De-
mocrat of New York, is shown
(above left) as he was visited
in Washington recently by
Jakob Altmaier (center), one
of the first Jewish members
of the German Government in
twenty years. Seated at right
is Ambassador Heinz Krekeler
of West Germany. Standing:
Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, of
Chicago, a close friend of
Altmaier. The visiting deputy
was General Klein's house
guest while in Chicago.



See Hope for German 'Pro-Semitism'

Jakob Altmaier, member of the West Ger-
man Federal Parliament and one of the first
Jewish members of the German Government in
20 years, visits Senator Herbert H. Lehman in
Washington, D. C.

A Social Democrat, Altmaier believes "the
mass of people have been cured" of anti-Semi-

tism in Germany (JP, Jan. 1, 1953). Thirty-nine
of Altmaier's relatives, including his 80-year-
old mother, were exterminated by the Nazis.

Shown above are (l. to r.) Sen. Lehman, Alt-
maier, Brigadier General Julius Klein of Chi-
cago, a close friend of Altmaier, and German
Ambassador Heinz Krekeler.

30—Tues., Jan. 5, 1954

Chicago American

German Leader Honored Here

History was made at yesterday's luncheon honoring Jakob Altmaier, 64, first high German official of Jewish faith since 1933.

His host was Dr. K. Heinrich Knappstein, German consul general, and the invocation was delivered by Rabbi Louis Binstock of Temple Sholem.

It was the first time in nearly a quarter of a century that a Jewish clergyman had officiated at a Chicago German consular function.

Dr. Knappstein told the gathering:

"I believe I learned about the real spirit of true Americanism at a dinner for Bishop Sheil at which Dr. Binstock also gave the invocation.

"I think this wonderful interfaith fellowship of faiths is mirrored in the new spirit of our new Germany, whose people, although they should not be saddled with a collective guilt for the horrors of the Nazi regime, nonetheless share a collective shame for those terrible deeds."

NOT 'REPARATION'

He praised Altmaier for his part in introducing a bill passed unanimously by both German houses—instituting the payment of \$750,000,000 to Israel as a gesture of friendship. Altmaier is a Socialist member of the German Bundestag (lower house).

Dr. Knappstein noted: "This payment was not a 'reparation' in any sense.

"You cannot make reparation for 6,000,000 Jews killed between 1933 and 1945."

Altmaier revealed that 39 of his relatives had been killed by the Nazis, including his 80-year-old mother, who perished in a concentration camp. He said:

"In view of this, perhaps you wonder why I chose to return to Germany after the war.

"I can tell you it was largely because of the persuasion of the late Kurt Schumacher, leader of our Socialist party and a great man.

"Schumacher lost an arm fighting for Germany in World War I.

"During the Nazi regime, he was imprisoned for nearly 10 years in a concentration camp, where he lost an eye and a leg.

'DREAM CAME TRUE'

"It was he who asked me to return and help him in rebuilding a decent Germany. He died not long after the war, but I think he lived to see his dream come true."

Among guests at the luncheon were Gens. Julius Klein and Kenneth Buchanan, Meyer Kestnbaum, board chairman of Hart, Schaffner and Marx, and Merrill C. Meigs, vice president of the Hearst Corp.



Other guests at the Humphrey tea included (Left to Right) Ambassador Krekeler, Deputy Altmaier, Maj. General Wilton B. Persons, Special Assistant to President Eisenhower and Brig. General Julius Klein.



Many top legislators attended the Humphrey tea including (Left to Right) Speaker of the House Joseph Martin, Senator Theodore Green, Senator H. Alexander Smith, Deputy Altmaier, Senator Humphrey.



Among guests at Humphrey reception in Senate were (Left to Right) German Ambassador Krekeler, Senator Alexander Wiley, Deputy Altmaier, Senator James Murray, Senator Edward Thyne, Senator Humphrey.



Chatting at Humphrey tea are (Left to Right) Speaker of the House Joseph Martin, German Ambassador Krekeler, Deputy Altmaier, Senator Humphrey and Brig. General Julius Klein.

SCENES AT HUMPHREY TEA IN SENATE IN HONOR OF DEPUTY ALTMAIER



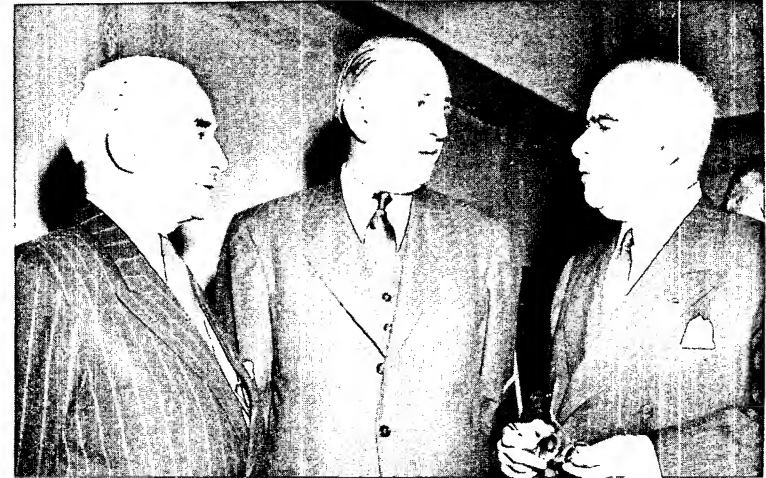
(Left to Right) Brig. General Julius Klein, Deputy Altmaier, Senator Theodore Green, Senator Hubert Humphrey, German Ambassador Krekeler, Senator Richard Russell.



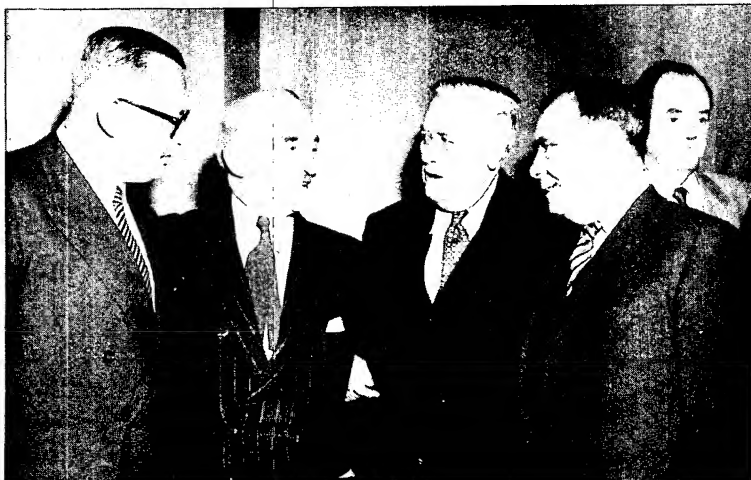
(Left to Right) Deputy Altmaier, Senator Edward J. Thye, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons, Special Assistant to President Eisenhower, Senator Karl Mundt, German Ambassador Krekeler.



(Left to Right) Deputy Altmaier, Senator Estes Kefauver, Senator John Sparkman, German Ambassador Krekeler.



(Left to Right) Deputy Altmaier, Senator Richard Russell, Senator Herbert Lehman.



(Left to Right) German Ambassador Krekeler, Deputy Altmaier, Senator Alexander Wiley, Speaker of the House Joseph Martin (in back),



(Left to Right) Brig. General Julius Klein, Julius Cahn, Counsel for Foreign Relations Committee of Senate, Deputy Altmaier, Senator James E. Murray, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senator J. Wm. Fulbright.

From Wire Service January 4th, 1954

ALTMAYER FAVORS RETURN OF SEIZED GERMAN PROPERTY.

CHICAGO - JAKOB ALTMAYER, MEMBER OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT, SAID HE HAS CONTACTED SEVERAL AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN CONCERNING THE RETURN OF GERMAN PROPERTY SEIZED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING WORLD WAR II.

ALTMAYER TOLD REPORTERS HERE THAT HE TALKED YESTERDAY WITH REP. SIDNEY R. YATES D-ILL., AND WILL CONFER TOMORROW IN WASHINGTON WITH SEN. HERBERT H. LEHMAN D-N.Y. AND SEN. EVERETT M. DIRKSEN R-ILL.

MOST OF THE PROPERTY INVOLVED, HE SAID, IS OWNED BY LOWER OR MIDDLE CLASS INDIVIDUALS AND ITS RETURN WOULD HELP CEMENT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GERMANY.

ALTMAYER SAID HIS CONTACTS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ARE BEING MADE UNOFFICIALLY.

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During Deputy Altmaier's Chicago visit he was guest of honor at a luncheon given by German Consul General Knapstein. (Left to Right) Meyer Kestnbaum, prominent Chicagoan, General Klein, Deputy Altmaier, and Consul Knapstein.

Before leaving the United States, Mr. Altmaier emphasized again Germany's eagerness to cooperate closely with Israel. In a message to his personal friends he reiterated that Germany recognizes her obligation towards Jewry.

He expressed his gratitude for the warmhearted reception accorded him during his visit here by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, by the members of his administration, by Senators and Congressmen of both political parties, such as Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senator Herbert Lehman, Speaker of the House Joseph Martin, and Congressman Edgar Jonas. He recalled with pleasure his visit with former Governor Adlai E. Stevenson.

"In the United States," Mr. Altmaier said, "I have seen true democracy at work. The experience I have gained here leads me to believe that Germany too will receive just recognition of her claims.

"A square deal," he continued, "is the typical American way. When the issue of German properties confiscated during the war comes up for consideration, I am confident that it will be treated fairly and justly.

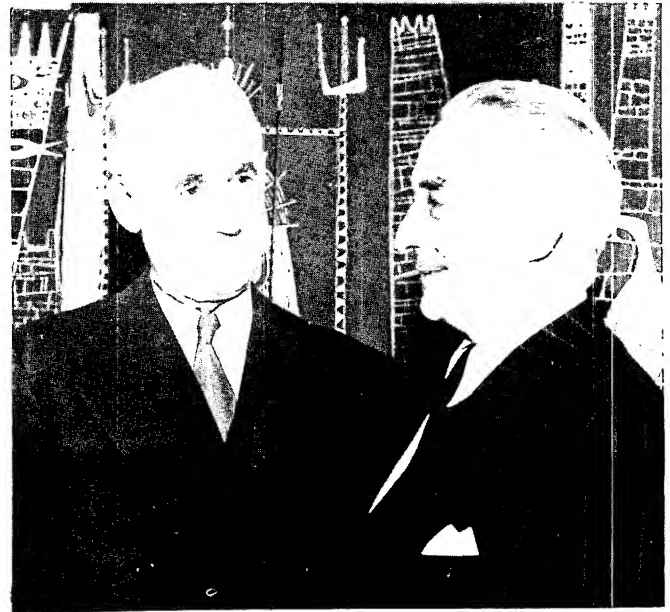
"The return of these properties to their rightful owners will heal a wound which the unfortunate, horrible war has inflicted on the little people.

"This is a problem," Mr. Altmaier said, "which concerns the little man, and it is he who will be affected by the benevolence of this great country of yours."

Prepared by courtesy of JKPR, Suite 807, Empire State Bldg., New York, N.Y., January 1954



German Consul General Dr. Heinrich Knapstein was host at a luncheon given in honor of Deputy Altmaier. (Left to right) Prof. Max Rheinstein, John M. Johnston (Chicago Daily News), Deputy Altmaier, Dr. Knapstein, Brig. General Julius Klein, Peter Reich (Chicago American), Maj. General Kenneth Buchanan, Carl Kesler (Chicago Daily News), Rabbi Louis Binstock, Meyer Kestnbaum, Merrill C. Meigs (Executive Vice President, Hearst Corporation), Benjamin Weintraub, Leo Lowitz.



(Left to right) Congressman Edgar Jonas and Deputy Altmaier meeting at home of Brig. General Julius Klein.

SCENES AT RECEPTION IN HOME OF BRIG. GENERAL AND MRS. JULIUS KLEIN



(Left to right) Father Morrison (Chaplain, 33rd Infantry Division), Deputy Altmaier, Edward F. Moore, (Chairman Cook County Republican Central Committee)



(Left to right) Capt. Edward A. Hayes (Past National Commander American Legion), General Klein, Deputy Altmaier, German Consul General Dr. Knapstein.



(Left to right) General Klein, Maj. General Kenneth Buchanan, Maj. General (Ret.) John A. Homer (Illinois Civil Defense Administration), Deputy Altmaier, Maj. General Robert Woodward (Administrator, Illinois Civil Defense Administration), Philip R. Davis (prominent Chicago attorney), Dr. Knapstein.



(Left to right) Deputy Altmaier, Judge Harry M. Fisher, His Excellency T. Djonovics (former Yugoslavian Ambassador to the U.S.)

ER 5-8161-A

Brig. General Julius Klein
110 South Dearborn Street
Chicago 3, Illinois

Dear Julius:

I have your letter of 22 July regarding
an instance of an award of the Legion of Merit.
While the matter is out of my sphere of activ-
ity, I appreciate your thinking of me.

Sincerely,

/s/
Allen W. Dulles
Director

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O/DCI/[]:j1 (27 July 1954)

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